



May 17, 2005



Providence man is sentenced for illegally possessing a handgun

A federal judge has sentenced **Eugenio Vasquez**, 29, of Providence, to 30 months in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Vasquez had a handgun in his car when Providence Police detectives stopped it last June.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres imposed on May 13 in U.S. District Court, Providence.

In February, Vasquez pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Luis M. Matos said that the government could prove that, on June 23, detectives stopped a car that Vasquez was driving and seized a nine-millimeter pistol from between the driver and passenger seats. A round was in the chamber and seven rounds were in the magazine.

Vasquez, of 25 Camden Avenue, was convicted in 1996 for assault with intent to murder.

Providence Police and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Matos prosecuted it as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, ATF, the Rhode

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Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 600 years in federal prison.

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